

Sports

Sky is the limit for stuntmen, Soldiers

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

It's a bird... it's a plane... it's.... motorcycles?

Traveling top speeds, up an inclined ramp, professional stunt men soared through the Fort Stewart skies on motorcycles, skateboards and bicycles as a part of Fort Stewart – Hunter Army Airfield's Fourth of July celebrations.

Performing for the first time on a military installation, Everything Events & Entertainment's action sports stunt division wowed the Stewart-Hunter Soldiers and Families with free style motor cross, skateboard, BMX, and street bike demonstrations in front of the Newman Fitness Center.

“This is just one way to show our appreciation,” said Josh Berman, EE&E president and talent manager.

Berman said in the past, individuals had coordinated through AAFES to perform motor cross stunts on military installations overseas, but Stewart-Hunter marked history as this was the first time professional stuntmen provided troops a combined “On the Edge” world-class competition level tricks and stunts.

Jeff Paolazzi, who began freestyle motor cross in 2000, now travels internationally performing motor cycle stunts. This was the first time he had ever stepped foot on a military post.

“It means more to give back to the troops,” Paolazzi said. “We’re here riding for them, because they are out fighting for us.”

“This is for the Soldiers,” Paolazzi

continued. “That’s what we’re here for – to put on a show.”

The professional stuntmen, ages 19 through 35, put on more than a show for the Stewart-Hunter community.

Joining Paolazzi, motor cross professionals Cody Werner and Kyle Lee demonstrated freestyle motor cross stunts including no hand and one hand jumps, twists and turns.

“Jumpin” Jeff Schneider, Cane Friesten, Aarron Cline, Monte Perlin, and Sam Minnich- added to the excitement with street bike stunts including one-wheeled tricks and riding atop motorcycle handlebars.

Skateboarder A.J. Kohn, and BMX professionals Ricardo Laguna, Jason Rodriguez, Brian Cunningham, and Steve Muller were also on-hand to perform crowd thrilling stunts.

Although these stuntmen are professionals, accidents can happen to anyone.

“The biggest challenge is staying uninjured,” said Paolazzi. “It’s important to always have your safety gear before you even start your bike.”

The stunt men encouraged Soldiers to always follow their dreams.

“Don’t let any negative attitude, or any negative feed back hold you down,” said Lee.

As most of the 3rd Infantry Division is deployed fighting terrorism, the stuntmen shared insight regarding safety.

“Always wear your helmet,” Lee said with a smile. “Here and over there (in Iraq), I guarantee you it will help.”



Photos by Sgt. Tanya Polk

Kyle Lee, with EE&T performs arial stunts on his motorcycle at the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Independence Day Celebration held on July 4.



Cane Friesten performs crowd inspiring maneuvers on his motorcycle on 6th St. during the 4th of July celebration held at Fort Stewart.



Above: Skateboarders, motorcycle and BMX stuntmen performed gravity defying tricks at the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Independence Day Celebration.

Right: Steve Muller spins the handle bars in mid-jump at the Extreme Events & Entertainment display, which showcased motorcycle, BMX, and skateboard stunts during the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Independence Day Celebration July 4th.

1-15th Inf. uses soccer to befriend villagers



Photos by 1-15th Infantry Soldiers

Above: Pfc. James Jones, Co. E, 1/15 Inf. plays soccer with a child in a village outside Al Durai'ya on June 23.

Right: Pfc. James Jones, Co. E, 1/15 Inf. protects the goal as local children try to score, while playing soccer outside FOB Hammer in Iraq.

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment were prepared for the worst when they rolled outside the gates of FOB Hammer on June 23.

The engineering company had been clearing the roads in the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's area of operation since the day they had arrived. As part of Operation Marne Torch, a Multi-National Division-Center operation, they would provide security near an Iraqi police checkpoint outside the town of Al Durai'ya.

"We were supposed to take over that route for the MPs (military police), during Bull Run," explained Pfc. James Jones, Company E, 1-15 Infantry. "We cleared up until the check point. We held that spot all night. At about eight in the morning, we went out into a smaller village, and set up a temporary checkpoint."

As the Soldiers manned their post, the children of the village began to come out and look at the visitors in their neighborhood.

"It was tough to get them to come out at first," said Jones. "They weren't used to seeing us out there and really didn't know what to make of us. When we broke out three soccer balls it helped, but they really just wanted to take them and run. We really just tried to let them know through our interpreter that we were just there to help."

The number of children swelled as the news of free soccer balls spread through the village. Soon after, the Soldiers used 20 children and three soccer balls to

bring a village to them.

The Soldiers were able to give something to the girls and smaller boys thanks to the parents of Pfc. Brian Jolley, Co. E, 1/15 Inf.

"My parents, Laura Stewart and Jeff Jolley, really got the community back in Champaign to donate toys and things like that," explained Jolley.

Armed with a bag of Beanie Babies, Jolley made sure the girls and small children had a stuffed animal as their mothers started coming out to check on them.

"I think it's great that a mother in the United States can help bring a smile to another mother's face," said Jolley. "It's always good when something like a small stuffed animal can help build relationship with a local mother. Once they saw what we were all out there doing, they warmed up to us and started talking to our interpreters."

While the mothers talked with the interpreters, some of the Co. E Soldiers got involved in a soccer game that the boys had started.

Jones, who played midfielder at Killeen High School, enjoyed playing his old position, but decided that playing goalie would be better for that game.

"I was running around for a little while, but the gear started getting heavy," laughed Jones. "I decided I'd stay still and let them kick it to me."

Jones believes the game helped break down much of the misinformation that, he believed, insurgents may be giving them.

"When things like that happen you are showing them that you are not there to hurt them," said Jones. "You show people we are there to help. It shows them that we are normal people like them."



Results from the Garrison Commander Golf Scramble

The Garrison Commander Golf Scramble held June 29 has a six-point difference between first and third place. The results were not in by the publication time for the July 5 edition. The awards were as follows:

The longest drive went to Paul

Confer. The closest to the pin was John Folker.

The first place finishers, with a score of 56 from the 4th Brigade troop batallion, were Paul Confer, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Confer, Lt. Col. Daryl Mcdowell and Lt. Col.

Dane Barksdale.

Second place, with a score of 61 went to the MATES team represented by John Folker, Joe Dickey, John Smiley and Grady Braxton.

The third place team with a score of 61 was represented by Tony

Klessek, Derrick Taylor, Charles Sapp, and Kevin Parks.

Community members are encouraged learn more about the Golf opportunities at Stewart-Hunter. For more information, call 767-2370.

Hunter teams battle, prepare for championships

Nondice Powell
Hunter Public Affairs

Strikes, home runs and cheering; Soldiers and Family Members from Hunter Army Airfield gathered at the softball complex on Duncan Dr. for the Hunter softball tournament championship game.

Soldiers from A Company, 224 Military Intelligence battled Soldiers from 10th Transportation Company in the Hunter softball championship July 6. The Soldiers of 224 MI walked away with first place.

"It was an awesome game," said Sgt. Rebecca Jackson, 10th Trans. Co. "Both teams gave it their all."

Members from the opposing team agreed.

"It was a great game," said Chief Warrant Officer Guillermot Carrillo, 224 MI. "Everyone participated, including family members. I appreciate them being around. They were total supporters."

The game will not be the last for the Soldiers. The teams will have

the opportunity to battle each other again in a tournament with teams from Stewart.

"I'm ready to go," said Jackson. "I'm excited all the time. My team is ready excited and the other team is excited. We're going to represent Hunter and let Stewart know they can't come in our town and win."

The upcoming competitions are highly anticipated.

"We want to keep the trophy here," said Spec. Euree Mecer, 10th Trans. Co. "It would be nice to face [224 MI] again. We look forward to that."

Jackson feels that team sports help the units to build cohesion.

"It gets all the players on the team to get to know each other a little bit better," said Jackson. "You get to know their strengths and weaknesses. If you can play together in games, then you can work together."

The teams from Hunter will take on four teams from Fort Stewart beginning July, in a double elimination tournament at Hunter.



Soldiers from A Company, 224 Military Intelligence receive their first place trophies for the Hunter Army Airfield softball tournament championship game July 6.



Photos by Nondice Powell
Private Chaise Archer, 10th Transportation Company, takes his turn at bat during the Hunter Army Airfield softball tournament championship game July 6.

CYS football and cheerleading signup starts at Stewart-Hunter

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Child and Youth Services announced that applications for football and cheerleading registration were being taken until Aug. 10. Applications will be accepted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and till 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Bring the registration to the CYS at the corner of Gulick Avenue and Linquist behind Corkan pool.

Football season is open to members of Youth Services ages 7-13. Each participant must be between 7 and 14 as of Sept. 1. The age divi-

sions are 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12 (or) 11-13. Participants age 13 (as of Sept. 1) will be placed on a waiting list and will be called in to register if there are enough to form an 11-13 on-post league.

All players will be able to participate in their age division, regardless of weight.

Cheerleading is open to members of Youth Services ages 6-13. Children must be at least age 6 and cannot be age 14 as of Dec. 31.

Volunteer coaches are needed. For more information, call Stewart CYS at 767-2312.

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